

# REFERRED TO THE "BORED" MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

June 10, 1919.

To the Editor:

Why waste so much space on questions asked by the Board of Examiners? The seven columns in your May issue might have been used to better purpose. These questions may be of interest to future licentiates, but without appending the correct answers they do not educate your old, long since licensed reader. Nor do we get any gauge of our new licentiates—i. e., those who passed the exes—unless we know what answers "got by." And why do we not hear of oral and practical examinations and tests? The Board itself could have stenographers at these seances, and thus insure permanent records for the Board.

Yours very truly,  
ONE OF THE BORED.

Los Angeles.

## County Societies

### ALAMEDA COUNTY.

Personal Reminiscences in England and Scotland during the year 1918 by Lieutenant-Commander Stanley Stillman, U. S. N. R. F., Director Navy Hospital No. 2 (Stanford Unit), was the subject of a most interesting and instructive talk at the regular May meeting of the Alameda County Medical Association. The speaker also showed a number of fine photographs taken during his service. Those who failed to hear Dr. Stillman missed a genuine treat.

Dr. Daniel Crosby gave a brief report of the Santa Barbara meeting. The Doctor felt that the meeting was one of the most inspiring that he had ever attended. Many men came to the meeting who had not been in the habit of coming to others and many well known faces were welcomed from abroad where they had gone to uphold the traditions of the profession.

The sections were well attended and while the papers were all instructive and interesting, some were exceedingly so. The Doctor thought that perhaps the most notable thing in connection with the entire meeting was the luncheon given by the League for the Conservation of Public Health.

Dr. Crosby said that among other things emphasized was the fact, that in his service to the sick man the doctor fails largely to enter into non-medical service to the community and up to this time has failed almost absolutely to obtain a proper community perspective with reference to the medical profession. The great lesson that every practitioner of medicine could have taken and should take from the meeting at Santa Barbara is that in addition to the active interest in the individual he must achieve to a wider community perspective in all things and especially is this true in connection with the affairs of, the standards of, and the very life details of the medical profession itself. Those of us who were so fortunate as to attend the last session of the California State Medical Society were fortunate indeed in having pointed out to us our place as citizens and as members of the greatest of all of the learned professions.

Mr. J. J. Donovan spoke of the objects of the Eye Strain Prevention School Desk and Seat—illustrating the same with lantern slides.

Dr. R. T. Stratton presented a case of surgical closure of a frontal fracture defect by the heteroplastic method and the use of a perforated plate of fine silver with peripheral flanges. The injury was received fourteen years ago. For the last five years the patient has complained of head heaviness, vertigo and headache. For two years general convulsions were added. In the ten weeks

succeeding the operation, there have been no unfavorable symptoms.

After the program a buffet luncheon was served.

The May meeting of the Samuel Merritt Hospital Staff Council was unusually interesting. Dr. A. Galbraith discussed "Symptoms of Nasal Pathology," with demonstration of transillumination of the accessory nasal sinuses, and Dr. William Fitch Cheney of Leland Stanford University read a paper on "Peptic Ulcer: Its Differential Diagnosis."

Prof. Samuel J. Hume of the Department of English in the University of California discussed the importance of the Drama and the Theater in Education and gave interesting results that had been obtained in the public schools throughout the State.

At the June meeting Dr. C. L. McVey read a paper on Splenomegaly and Dr. S. H. Buteau discussed Drainage versus Removal of the Gall-Bladder. This subject elicited a spirited discussion among the surgeons present.

Publicity was the subject of Mr. Celestine J. Sullivan's address. After these meetings refreshments are served and a social hour is enjoyed.

Oakland's new Hospital to be erected by The Oakland Hospital Corporation, a corporation composed of professional and business men, is now an assured fact. This hospital is to be fire-proof, modern and absolutely up-to-date, and controlled by a Board of Directors elected by the stockholders, but the strictly medical interests will be handled by an Advisory Board elected by the medical and scientific members of the company. A building site has been acquired and the building plans are well under way.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alvin Powell received his discharge from the Army in New York and will return to California after attending the meeting of the American Medical Association.

Dr. J. N. Force has received the appointment of Associate-Professor of Epidemiology at the University of California.

Dr. Ruby Cunningham of Berkeley has just returned from the East where she was a delegate to the Y. W. C. A. meeting.

Dr. Edward von Adelung of Oakland is among those attending the meeting of the American Medical Association.

The Berkeley Dispensary is opening a Dental Clinic which will be equipped and maintained by the Junior American Red Cross. Through the efforts of Dr. R. T. Legge the Dispensary is also hoping to open a Clinic three nights a week for Venereal Diseases.

The following men have recently been appointed on the Visiting Staff of the Alameda County Hospital: Dr. W. H. Strietmann, Dr. F. M. Loomis, Dr. Chas. Miller, Dr. H. G. Thomas, Dr. H. G. MacLean, Dr. J. W. Calkins, Dr. Dexter N. Richards, Dr. T. J. Clark, Dr. F. H. Bowles, Dr. E. S. DePuy, Dr. E. N. Ewer, Dr. W. A. Woods, Dr. C. A. DePuy, Dr. T. C. McCleave.

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

The Los Angeles County Medical Association met May 1 at 8.15 p. m. in the Arrow Theatre of the Hamburger Building.

The President, W. T. McArthur was in Sacramento to help prevent passage of Assembly Bill 933. Doctors Beckett, Moore, MacGowan, and others accompanied him for the same purpose. Dr. George L. Cole presided.

Major Ansel G. Cook of Hartford, Conn., spoke on the "Problems of Orthopedic Surgery."

Dr. Cook spoke in a humorous vein, that orthopedic surgery is the broadest specialty; in fact it is so broad that it is not a specialty, and the orthopedist is considered an unmitigated nuisance who butts into every specialty. The orthopedic surgeon is the descendant of the bone setter of yesterday and is tolerated. The old-fashioned bone

setter did things the community wanted done. He will exist as long as members of the profession do not do what the public wants. The laity determines it. If an ankle drags, whether it is due to cerebral paralysis, syphilis, a Pott's fracture, or such like, the orthopedist has to know all of these different things. The orthopedist must be a mechanic. The idea is a balance of bone and muscle. To fit shoes, he has to see the patient as a whole. In balance Dr. Lovett of Boston looked for the center of gravity. It pulls all the time. A body acts statically as if a center of gravity; a pyramid on its apex would be insecure. A dancer has the center of gravity over the base. Wolff's law operates when any part of the body is held in an unnatural position, the bone alters its structure for the new position. Nature tends to cure a certain amount of deformity.

Bow legs can be corrected as the bones are soft. Knock-knees legs are not strong enough to hold the body. Up to four years old the patients can be cured with braces. After seven years the bones become hard. The braces must be worn from six to ten months. Be prepared to put on a mechanical appliance. This will be done until surgeons use splints. Knock-knee requires brace, shank or broad heel and arch inside to change the balance by throwing the weight to the outer side. Raise the inner side of the shoes. There is flat foot when the posterior arch falls down. The bones are held by ligaments and moved by muscles in the calf of the leg. When the ligaments become elongated, the foot drops. If a plate is put higher than arch, you will cause atrophy. Women say they cannot wear low heeled shoes. When the shoe is too short the arch cannot fall down.

The anterior arch falls down in case of callosities. Morton's toe is when the fourth bone pinches the nerve of the fourth toe. It slips out four and five times a day. Put pad under the bone, if uncomfortable use a felt pad to hold up the anterior heel, and thus remove pressure from ball of foot. The balanced position will relieve pain.

Dr. Clarence G. Toland had for his subject, "Service in General Hospital, U. S. Army." He praised the regular army officers who taught the volunteers discipline, etc. The latter were soon convinced that the regulars were superior in knowledge. He spoke of the U. S. General Hospital of modern methods, team work, equipment, etc.

Dr. Albert Soiland on "The Lay Radiographer" defined how the work of laymen differed from that of the professional roentgenologists. Dr. Bowman in discussing Dr. Soiland's paper, said that the secret of success is in the interpretation. Internists know how hard it is to interpret and cannot expect a layman to do so. These laymen cannot exist if physicians stopped supporting them. Send for the roentgenologist.

A vote of thanks to Major A. G. Cook was moved by Dr. Richardson and unanimously carried. There was no meeting May 15 because the Southern California Medical Society had its program May 14 and 15 in Riverside, which many of the Los Angeles County Medical Association attended.

#### Eye and Ear Section.

Regular meeting May 5, at 8 p. m. Place: Dr. Kelsey's office, 1005 Brockman Building.

#### Program.

"Symposium on Eye Injuries." Drs. F. W. Miller, T. J. McCoy and W. H. Dudley.

#### Harbor Branch.

Regular meeting April 25. Dinner at 6.30; program at 8.00. Place: Dining-room of "Puss 'n Boots," 140 Pine avenue.

#### Program.

"Observations of Influenza at Camp Logan," Dr. E. R. Harvey.

"Control of Venereal Diseases," Dr. A. W. Buell.  
"Contagious Disease" (Meningitis), Dr. H. J. Pruett.

"Treatment of Pneumonia," Dr. R. W. Wilcox.  
Discussion opened by Dr. F. D. Sweet. Returning members of the Medical Reserve Corps special guests.

#### Los Angeles Obstetrical Society

Officers—President, P. O. Smith; Vice-President, E. M. Palette; Councillor, Lyle G. McNeile; Secretary-Treasurer, Lyle G. McNeile.

Last regular meeting of the year—Time: Tuesday, May 13, at 8.15 p. m. Place: Office of Vice-President, 1501 S. Figueroa St.

#### Program.

Demonstration of a Combination Instrument Sterilizer and Douch Can, Neal N. Wood.

"Arm Extraction in Breech," Lyman E. Thayer.  
"The Los Angeles Maternity Service, A Municipal Dispensary," Lyle G. McNeile.

#### Anesthetists.

On the evening of May 6, 1919, there was formed an organization to be known as the Southern California Society of Anesthetists, of which Dr. F. D. Bullard was elected president. All physicians interested in anesthetics, who are members in good standing of their County Medical Society, are eligible to membership.

#### Base Hospital Unit is Home.

Members of the Base Hospital Unit, No. 35, has entrained for Camp Kearny, where the 103 men and three officers will be mustered out. The unit is in command of Captain Eliot Alden, of Los Angeles, and the other officers are Lieut. H. A. A. Payette, of Los Angeles and Lieut. H. A. Lille of South Pasadena.

The unit which is composed entirely of Southern California men, most of them from Los Angeles, was organized and outfitted here by the Los Angeles Chapter, American Red Cross, and left Camp Kearny for France, July 4 last, 200 strong, including 100 young women nurses recruited by the Good Samaritan Hospital. By August 10 the unit was established in its own 1000-bed hospital at Mars-Sur-Allier, France, where, in all, ten hospital units were located to care for the wounded and sick. From the time the unit established its hospital until it entrained for home, Capt. Alden stated, that it handled more than 7000 cases. In October, during the height of the Argonne fighting, the hospital handled at one time more than 2800 cases, though the capacity was established at 1000. Later during the influenza epidemic which struck the army, the members of the unit worked night and day.

The Women's Auxiliary of Base Hospital Unit No. 35 gave an entertainment and dance at the Armory in honor of the members of the unit. There were about 300 persons in attendance including 100 members of the unit. A program of music was given and Mrs. Walter Chase, president of the Auxiliary, welcomed the returning men. Home-made pies, cakes, and punch were served.

#### Makes Them Hygienic.

While he was in the East, Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, County Health Officer, got an idea. This idea has crystallized into what is now known as industrial hygiene. It means educating foreign help to become good, clean American citizens. Recently Dr. Margaret Farr, deputy county health officer, held a meeting in one of the cottages in Simon's brick-yards. The cottage has been given over to the county for this purpose, and is a headquarters. There are 51 Mexican families employed in the brick-yard and Dr. Farr, by the system, is teaching these Mexicans hygiene and efficiency. The work will be carried into other big corporations which have offered every facility.

#### Units May Wear Decorations.

Sanitary sections Nos. 539 and 625 were added

to the United States Army units authorized to wear the fourragere of the French Croix de Guerre and Sanitary Section No. 646 to those which may wear the fourragere of the French Medaille Militaire.

#### Druggists' Display.

Great interest in California drug circles is centering in the drug show to be held in connection with the thirteenth annual convention of the Pharmaceutical Association in this city next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Hall A in the Exposition Auditorium has been reserved for the exhibits which are expected to embrace nearly every product in the drug trade world, as well as sundries.

#### Alhambra Hospital.

Contract has been awarded for the erection of a hospital on the corner of Bay State and Commonwealth streets. The building when completed will be one of the most modern and complete hospitals in Southern California, and is being erected by the Alhambra Hospital Association, with Dr. C. B. Alexander at the head. It is estimated that the building will cost from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

#### Personals.

Dr. Ralph Hagan enlisted in the Army at the outbreak of the war and was immediately assigned to Camp Kearny, where he became acting chief surgeon of the base hospital, serving in that capacity until October 1918, when he was commissioned as chief surgeon of unit No. 96 for service in France. He saw active service with the American troops at the front for a number of weeks before the signing of the armistice. Dr. Hagan served terms as police surgeon of this city and did much pioneer surgical work, being, it is said, the first surgeon in California to use with successful results the now celebrated Murphy button.

In recognition of his patriotic labors in this city during the late war with Germany, Dr. Ralph L. Taylor, city health officer, who was breveted a Captain upon his discharge from the Army, after the Spanish-American War, received from Washington a commission of Major in the Medical Reserve Corps. Major Taylor was appointed health officer by James R. Williams, Commissioner of Public Safety.

Dr. Joseph D. Condit, a well known Pasadena surgeon, who was a Major in the United States Medical Corps in the war and who returned from France three months ago, was seriously injured this afternoon, when he was thrown from his horse. His right thigh was broken. Dr. Condit was riding on Yosemite Drive near the Arroyo Seco. His horse stepped into a gopher hole, throwing Dr. Condit to the ground. He is now a patient at the Pasadena Hospital.

Dr. John Y. Oldham, who served with the rank of Captain in the Medical Corps at Camp Kearny, has returned to Los Angeles and resumed practice.

Lieut. Edward R. Brainerd, Jr., son of Dr. Edward R. Brainerd, left an estate of \$100,000 according to a will filed for probate yesterday. He died on February 16 at Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., while in military service. In the will which is holographic, he leaves his entire estate to his mother.

Capt. A. T. Newcomb, U. S. A. Medical Reserve Corps, in Pasadena, has just returned to his home and practice after nine months in army service. Capt. Newcomb was the chief of the medical service at Camp Kearny Base Hospital. "It is planned to have Camp Kearny as the post for the fourth division of the Regular Army, to be organized at once," said Capt. Newcomb. "The Base Hospital at Camp Kearny cost more than \$2,000,000 and comprises about sixty buildings. It is situated about two and one-half miles from Camp Kearny proper. The medical and surgical departments

comprise twenty buildings each. The hospital has been receiving an average of three trains a week of convalescent and ailing soldiers, and the work will continue for many months to come. The spirit of the convalescents is wonderful, and in return the War Department is giving the boys the best of care and performing extraordinary work in 'reconstruction' and re-education of disabled men. At the Base Hospital a man is taught any trade or profession he chooses and which his disability enables him to take up."

Lieut.-Col. Frank C. Wiser, who left here with the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Field Hospital, has been placed in charge of the Children's Welfare Commission of the American Relief Association in Rumania, according to a letter received from the Colonel by Mrs. Wiser. The Children's Welfare Commission is an institution started by the Queen of Rumania and taken over by the American Relief Association, and, in his letter, the Colonel says his duties are to get the commission running smoothly. The One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Field Hospital Unit has been ordered home and, it is believed, is now on the seas. Lieut.-Col. Wiser is well known in this city, where he has practiced medicine for many years. He joined the army several months ago and has seen considerable service in France. He is now in Paris.

#### REPORT OF A CASE OF LETHARGIC ENCEPHALITIS.

NANNIE C. DUNSMOOR, M. D., Los Angeles.

E. G. (colored), aet. 11, had a severe attack of influenza, December 15, 1918, to January 1, 1919. He was apparently well until February 1, 1919, when he began to be drowsy. He complained of "not feeling well" and had some frontal headache and diplopia. His teacher took his temperature, which was 101 2/5°. She sent him home. He began to sleep more each day until February 15, when he was in a profound stupor. He could be aroused to take very small quantities of milk or water. Urine became scant, as low as 6 ounces in 24 hours. He was very constipated. Temperature and pulse were normal most of the time, then became subnormal.

February 20—Pulse was 30, temperature 97; extremities were cold. There was some stiffening of muscles of neck, back and legs. Pupils were even, responded to light. He would remain in the position placed, nothing aroused him; he did not move when being cared for. Urinalysis showed Sp. gravity 1030; no albumin, no casts. When he began to recover, speech was very slow and he seemed slow of comprehension. He was in that stuporous condition about 12 days, but gradually regained his normal condition. March 15 he was apparently well. Dr. Ross Moore discussed the case, saying he had had six cases with third nerve involvement, but the stupor was not so profound.

#### SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY.

##### Society Meetings.

Proceedings of the San Francisco County Medical Society.

During the month of May, 1919, the following meetings were held:

##### Tuesday, May 6th—Section on Medicine.

Children's Hospital Clinical Evening.

1. Diagnosis and treatment of epidemic meningitis. E. C. Fleischner.
2. Case presentation: Drainage of an empyema through an abscess cavity in lung. R. L. Ash.
3. Activities of the San Francisco Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. M. W. Cain.
4. Presentation of an unusual case of anemia. F. M. Holsclaw.
5. Retrospect of 14 years' experience in pyloric stenosis of infants. Langley Porter.

**Tuesday, May 13th—General Meeting.**

1. Bactericidal and therapeutic actions of chaulmoogra oil in leprosy and tuberculosis. E. L. Walker.
2. Aviation medicine—illustrated by War Department films. Henry Horn.

**Tuesday, May 20th—Section on Surgery.**

The Surgical Section held its meeting at the Letterman General Hospital, where the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel E. G. Northington, and his staff, demonstrated cases of interest to civil surgeons. After the meeting a supper and smoker were held.

1. Principles of treatment of shoulder joint after injuries and wounds; case demonstrations. Lieut.-Col. W. I. Baldwin.
2. Plastic amputations; case demonstrations. Major Leo Eloesser.
3. Bone grafts for the restoration of defects in bone; case demonstrations. Captain Sylvan Haas.
4. Weak and painful feet; case demonstrations and corrective appliances. Lieutenant T. J. Nolan.
5. Congenital absence of radius and thumb. Captain F. P. Topping.
6. War and the psychoses. Captain G. E. Meyers.
7. Arterio venous aneurism of arm; case demonstrations. Captain F. N. Chessman.
8. Operative treatment of peripheral nerve injuries; case demonstrations. Lieutenant Colonel H. C. Naffziger.

**Tuesday, May 27th—Section on Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat.**

1. Presentation of cases. (a) Angioma of middle ear. W. B. Stephens. (b) Sarcoma of naso-pharynx. Henry Horn.
2. Use of homatropine in refraction. Percy Sumner.
3. Some unusual cases of glaucoma. Hans Barkan.
4. Some experiences in the Army. H. A. Fletcher.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY.**

The Southern California Medical Society recently held in Riverside was liberally attended by San Diego doctors, who reported a profitable and enjoyable time.

The League for the Conservation of Public Health seems to be steadily gaining members and support throughout San Diego County.

The dinner meeting of the County Society held at the San Diego Hotel May 13 was entertained by a delightfully informal talk on medicinal observations in France by Robert Preble, Lieut. Col. M. C., U. S. A., of Chicago. Dr. Preble speaks from the viewpoint of the internist, with a freedom and vividness of sketching that makes for real entertainment.

The second meeting of the Society in May was featured by informal talks by Drs. T. O. Burger, A. E. Banks and E. A. Frauer, all of whom have recently returned from France.

The next meeting will be devoted to reminiscences of medical practice in the early days of organized medicine in San Diego county, the honor guests of the evening being all men who have practiced therein in the past quarter of a century.

The second meeting in June will take the form of a dinner and dance at the Point Loma Country Club, to which all members are expected to bring their ladies.

Dr. J. F. Grant has received his honorable discharge from service at Rockwell Field and resumes his practice as oculist with offices in the American building.

Dr. John C. E. Nielsen is taking a course at

the Trudeau School of Tuberculosis at Saranac Lake, N. Y.

The Society has adopted the policy of discontinuing meetings for a summer vacation during the months of July and August.

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY.**

On May 30 at the call of Dr. Samuel Robinson a few interested physicians met at Dr. Robinson's home where a Journal Club was formed, the officers of which are as follows:

President, Samuel Robinson, M. D.; Secretary, C. S. Stevens, M. D.; Librarian, R. W. Hartwell, M. D.; Censors, Rexwald Brown, M. D., R. Manning Clarke, M. D., C. S. Stevens, M. D.

The Club will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

**TULARE COUNTY.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Tulare County Medical Society was held at Hotel Johnson, Visalia, June 1. About twenty-five members were present to enjoy the dinner and welcome back a number of their members who have been away on Government service.

Dr. W. W. Richardson of Los Angeles presented the principal paper of the evening on, "The treatment of some fractures by mobilization and massage."

The Kings-Tulare counties joint tubercular sanitarium was opened at Springville June 6 with a basket picnic to which the public were invited. Mrs. E. M. Tate-Thompson representing the State Board of Health was present and made an address. A number of talks followed by those interested in the different aspects of the work.

**Notice****SOCIETY MEETING.**

The Pacific Coast Oto-Ophthalmological Society will hold its annual meeting in San Francisco, August, 4, 5 and 6. Many important papers are promised for the program. Address all correspondence to the Secretary, Dr. A. S. Green, Shreve Building, San Francisco, Cal.

**Red Cross Snap Shots**

The following facts will show the rapid and tremendous growth of the Red Cross in its expansion from a domestic relief organization to a world-wide war relief agency:

The first enrollment in December, 1917, brought the Red Cross membership to 22,000,000.

The second fund drive during the week of May 20 to 27, 1918, was oversubscribed by millions above the hundred million asked for. Contributions to the second war fund drive totaled \$180,623,106, more than 88 per cent. of which has been collected.

At the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1918, 8,512 persons were employed in an administrative capacity at National, Divisional and Foreign headquarters of the Red Cross. More than 8,000,000 volunteers served in the 700 canteens.

Forty thousand persons were engaged in Red Cross Home Service Work, and the amount expended for relief each month ranged from \$177,000 to \$315,000.

By the end of the fiscal year the Red Cross, being a recruiting agency for the Army and Navy Nurses Corps, had enrolled 20,530 nurses.

An idea of the extent of the work undertaken by the Red Cross mission to Greece may be gained from the fact that on one day 126 carloads of refugees, containing 7,150 persons, were provided with 12,500 rations. On another occasion, at Tynovo-Siemen, 1,500 refugees were given rations, the sick